

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CIEP-01 IO-10

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P 181449Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1341

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 0592

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAIR, SF, US

SUBJECT: SAFAIR REQUEST FOR REFUELING STOP IN RHODESIA

REF: (A) PRETORIA 0553 (B) PRETORIA 0535

1. RE BANGUI PROJECT CITED REFS, DE JAGER TOLD EMBOFF THAT SAG HAD AGREED PROVIDE FINANCING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BUILDING MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTION HOTEL AND OTHER TOURIST FACILITIES BANGUI. HE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD CONTRACTED WITH JOHANNESBURG FIRM, CEREAL AND GENERAL EXPORTS (PTY) LTD. (C&GE), TO HANDLE SA EXPORTS IN CONNECTION THIS PROJECT. SAFAIR, IN TURN, APPROACHED BY C&GE TO PROVIDE AIR CARGO TRANSPORT. INITIAL SAFAIR INVOLVEMENT WILL ENTAIL TRANSPORT OF 300 TONS BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FROM JOHANNESBURG TO BANGUI.

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2. DE JAGER SAID SAFAIR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ORIGINAL CONTRACT FOR MOVEMENT 300 TONS CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES IN MARCH AND APRIL 1975 WILL BE EXTENDED AND EXPANDED AS BUILDING PROCEEDS AND AS SAG-CAR AGREE ON OTHER ASPECTS TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD, HE SAID C&GE DIRECTOR, L.T. LEWIS, HAS MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF RELATIVELY LONG-TERM CONTRACT FOR SAFAIR INVOLVING TRANSPORT OF FRESH AND FROZEN FOODS, CHEMICALS, FERTILIZERS, INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AND OTHER DIVERSE PRODUCTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, LEWIS HAS ASKED SAFAIR FOR ESTIMATE OF 1975 FLYING HOURS/CARGO TONAGE AVAILABLE TO C&GE FOR JOHANNESBURG-BANGUI RUN.

3. SAFAIR NATURALLY VERY INTERESTED BUT FACES PROBLEM RESULTING FROM CONDITION ATTACHED TO OUR ISSUANCE L-100 EXPORT LICENSE WHICH STIPULATES THAT SAFAIR MAY NOT USE L-100 AIRCRAFT TO CARRY CARGO TO OR FROM RHODESIA. DE JAGER SAID THAT, IN ORDER MAKE JOHANNESBURG-BANGUI RUN ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE, SAFAIR WILL REQUIRE TECHNICAL-REFUELING STOP EN ROUTE. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, HE SAID, ONLY LOGICAL SITE IS VICTORIA FALLS, RHODESIA. VICTORIA FALLS IS ON MOST DIRECT ROUTE AND WOULD ENABLE SAFAIR USE SAA REFUELING FACILITIES. HE SAID ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE LUSAKA WHICH UNDESIRABLE FROM SAFAIR POINT OF VIEW BECAUSE OF NEED NEGOTIATE LANDING RIGHTS AND LOCATE FUEL SUPPLIER, UNCERTAINTY OF FUEL SUPPLY AND BECAUSE OF WHAT SAFAIR PERCEIVES AS POTENTIAL SECURITY PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, LUSAKA NOT ON DIRECT ROUTE. DE JAGER ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD REQUEST TEMPORARY AND CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF EXPORT LICENSE CONDITION TO PERMIT SAFAIR MAKE TECHNICAL-REFUELING STOP VICTORIA FALLS ON FLIGHTS BETWEEN JOHANNESBURG AND BANGUI. HE SAID SAFAIR WOULD NEITHER TAKE ON NOR OFF LOAD CARGO IN RHODESIA AND WOULD NOT OVERNIGHT. DE JAGER COMMENTED THAT SAFAIR HAS RECEIVED PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM BOTH ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA THAT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS WILL BE GRANTED FOR JOHANNESBURG-BANGUI FLIGHTS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS AS TO REPLY WE SHOULD GIVE DE JAGER. IF CONDITIONS OF SALES CONTRACT ARE READ LITERALLY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TECHNICAL-REFUELING STOPS IN RHODESIA WOULD FALL OUTSIDE RHODESIAN CLAUSE IN SALES AGREEMENT, AS IT DOES NOT EXPRESSLY FORBID L-100 FLIGHTS TO RHODESIA BUT SIMPLY STIPULATES THAT NO CARGO MAY BE CARRIED TO OR FROM RHODESIA. IF THIS IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SO, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONFIRM THIS TO SAFAIR WHICH, FROM ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US, HAS BEEN COMPLYING STRICTLY WITH CONDITIONS OF SALE OF L-100 AIRCRAFT. FACT THEY TOOK INITIATIVE TO RAISE MATTER OF TECHNICAL STOP IN RHODESIA SEEMS FURTHER INDICATION OF COMPANY'S DESIRE ADHERE STRICTLY TO SPIRIT AS WELL AS LETTER OF CONDITIONS. ADVISE PRIORITY.

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